

REMARKS

Claims 14-17, 19-29 and 37-44 are pending in this application. Claims 1-13, 18, 30-36, 39 and 45-72 are cancelled. Claims 14, 18, 37, 38 and 40 are amended.

Claims 14-17, 19-30, 36, 38, 39 and 45-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,234,447 (Kaster) in view of US 5,830,222 (Makower). Applicants submit that the rejection is muted in view of the amendments described below.

Claims 18, 37 and 40-44 were objected to in the pending Office Action as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 18, 37 and 40-44 were similarly objected to in the prior Office Action dated January 9, 2008. Applicants have amended claim 14 to include the limitations of claim 18, but remove the limitations added in the prior response dated June 9, 2008 (the longitudinal axis and related step); claim 18 has been amended to claim the limitations that were added to claim 14 in the prior Response dated June 9, 2008 (the longitudinal axis and related step); claim 37 has been amended to be an independent claim that includes the limitations previously claimed in claims 14, 36 and 37, along with an engaging step; claim 40 has been amended to be an independent claim that includes the limitations previously claimed in claims 14, 36, 39 and 40. Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are allowable, and seek notice of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-1239
(732) 524-5575 (Fax)
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By: /Brian S. Tomko/
Brian S. Tomko
Reg. No.41,349